IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 and claims 21 – 31, without prejudice.

Claims 1 – 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method of analyzing the header of one protocol in the context of the header of at least one other protocol, the method comprising:

identifying the prefix portion of the header of the one protocol that is common with the corresponding prefix portion of the at least one other protocol; and

identifying a next portion of the header of the one protocol that differs from the corresponding next portion of the header of the at least one other protocol; and

computing at least one constraint that is to be applied to the processes which can generate packets in accordance with the at least one other protocol without requiring additional memory storage resources.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the computing of the at least one constraint is done so that the packet generated in accordance with the at least one other protocol with the further addition of the at least one constraint will satisfy the requirements of the one protocol.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the computing of the at least one constraint is done so that the packet generated in accordance with the at least one other protocol with the further addition of the at least one constraint will substantially satisfy the requirements of the one protocol.

Claims 21 – 31 (Cancelled)

32. (New) A system for analyzing the header of one protocol in the context of the header of at least one other protocol, the method comprising:

means for identifying a prefix portion of the header of the one protocol that is common with a corresponding prefix portion of the at least one other protocol; and

means for identifying a next portion of the header of the one protocol that differs from a corresponding next portion of the header of the at least one other protocol; and

means for computing at least one constraint that is to be applied to processes having means for generating packets in accordance with the at least one other protocol without requiring additional memory storage resources.

33. (New) The system for analyzing the header of one protocol in the context of the header of at least one other protocol as defined in claim 32 wherein said means for computing at least one constraint includes means for generating packets in accordance with the at least one other protocol with the further addition that the at least one constraint will satisfy the requirements of the one protocol.

34. (New) The system for analyzing the header of one protocol in the context of the header of at least on other protocol as defined in claim 32 wherein said means for computing at least one constraint includes means for generating packets in accordance with the at least one other protocol with the further addition of the at least one constraint will substantially satisfy the requirements of the one protocol.